

The communicants of the "Evangelical Syriac Church," which might be termed, from its organisation and creed, *the Presbyterian Syriac Church*, numbered 216 in 1857 and 2003 in 1887.

converts, and made them leave his fold. (2) *Lack of discipline.*

The converts could no longer accept tmscriptural practices and rank abuses that prevailed, and it became evident that there was no method to reform them. At every effort the rent was made worse. (3) *Lack of teaching.* The converts asked for better care, and purer and "better teaching and means of grace than they found in the dead language, rituals, and ordinances of the Old Church.

"The missionaries were'slow in abandoning the hope that the Nestorian Church would become reformed and purified ; but their hope was in vain, their efforts therefore have been not to proselytise, but to leaven the whole people with Christian truth. The separation was made in no spirit of hostility or controversy. There was no violent disruption. The missionaries have never published a word against the Old Church ecclesiastics or its polity.

"The ordination of the Old Church has always been accepted as valid. The missionaries and the evangelical bishops have sometimes joined in the ordination services, and it would be difficult to draw the line when the Episcopal ordination ceased and the Presbyterian began in the Reformed body.

"The relation of the Presbyterian mission work to the old ecclesiastics is thus something different from that found among any other Eastern Christians. The Patriarch in office fifty years ago was at first very friendly to the missionaries, and personally aided in superintending the building of mission houses. Subsequently he did all in his power to break up the mission. The Patriarch now in office has taken the attitude of neutrality, with frequent indications of fairness and friendliness toward our work.

" The next in ecclesiastical rank is the Mattran (Syriac for Metropolitan), the only one left of the twenty-five Metropolitans named in the thirteenth century. The present incumbent recently made distinct overtures to our Evangelical Church to come to an understanding by establishing the scriptural basis of things essential, and allowing liberty in things non-essential. He fails, perhaps, to understand all the scriptural issues

between us, but he has a sincere desire to walk uprightly
and to benefit
his people.

"Of the bishops, three have been united with the
Reform, and died in
the Evangelical Church. The three bishops in Kurdistan
are friendly,
and give their influence in favour of our schools.

"A large majority of the priests or presbyters of the
Old Church, in
Persia at least, joined the Reform movement, and as large
a proportion of
the deacons. In all, nearly seventy of the priests have
laboured with the